



# Oconto County 4-H Rabbit Project

2015

## Rabbit Resources

### Oconto County 4-H Project

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/>

### Oconto County Youth Agriculture Programs

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>

### Wisconsin 4-H Project Page

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/rabbits.cfm>

### 4-H Project Literature

<http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-rabbit.aspx>

## Oconto County Fair

<http://www.ocontocountyfair.org>

### Check out the Requirements

<http://oconto.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-agriculture-programs/>

## Welcome to the 4-H Rabbit Project

The 4-H rabbit project provides youth with the opportunity to learn about selection, management, health, marketing, and careers in the rabbit industry.

Youth learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more rabbits. They will explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.

Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Rabbit Project.

## Signing Up for a 4-H Rabbit Project

Youth in the Rabbit Project enroll in one or more of the following projects. To enroll in 4-H, visit the 4-H On-Line site at <https://www.4honline.com/> If you need help with the online enrollment, check with your club advisor or call the Extension Office for guidance (920-834-6845).

- Rabbit 1 (Grades 3 -5)
- Rabbit 2 (Grades 6 – 8)
- Rabbit 3 (Grades 9-12)

NOTE: Animal Project sign-up is done by grade, not skill level.

## Best Place to Get Started?

Plan on attending Fall Project Kickoff (see calendar) to meet your project leader and pick up a January Thaw project challenge. You can access project challenges anytime at <http://oconto.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-projects/project-days/>



## Poultry Leaders

Please feel free to contact your county-wide 4-H rabbit leader for more information on your project.

Stacie Pienta  
920-848-0579

Mallory Pienta  
Contact info here....

## Contact Us

UW-Extension Staff

Paula Huff  
4-H Youth Development Agent  
920-834-6845  
([paula.huff@uwex.edu](mailto:paula.huff@uwex.edu))

Sarah Mills-Lloyd  
Agriculture Agent  
920-834-6845  
([sarah.millsloyd@uwex.edu](mailto:sarah.millsloyd@uwex.edu))

## Looking for out-of county educational experiences\*?

Area Animal Science Days  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/events/animalscience.cfm>

4-H and Youth Conference –For youth in 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/events/youthconf/index.cfm>

State Fair  
West Allis, Wisconsin  
*\*Funding for 4-H youth may be available from 4-H Leaders Association*

Additional Opportunities:  
A calendar of Wisconsin State Rabbit Breeders Association Sanctioned rabbit shows is available online at [wsrba.org](http://wsrba.org)

Shows for the entire US are listed on the American Rabbit Breeders Association web site at [arba.net](http://arba.net)

### 4-H Rabbit Project Calendar 2015-16

<b>Fall Kickoff</b>	October 10, 2015	Gillett Schools Gillett
	<i>Meet your project leaders and pick up a Rabbit challenge for January Thaw</i>	
<b>January Thaw</b>	January 9, 2016	Washington Middle School Oconto Falls
<b>Spring Fling</b>	April 30, 2016	Washington Middle School Oconto Falls
<b>Rabbit Clinic</b>	Tuesday, July 26, 2016 6 PM	Oconto County Fairgrounds Gillett
<b>Oconto County Fair</b>	August 18-21, 2015	Oconto County Fairgrounds Gillett



# 4-H Rabbit Project

## Getting Started with Rabbits

2015

### Hint:

For a quick start in the Rabbit Project, attend Fall Project Kickoff, January Thaw, and Spring Fling.

### PLANNING

- Determine your goal. For example:
  - Do you want to raise a litter?
  - Do you want to raise market rabbits?
  - Do you want to show your animals?
  - Do you want a pet?
- Check out the 4-H project books on rabbits, and the other resources listed such as [www.arba.net](http://www.arba.net), [www.wsrba.org](http://www.wsrba.org), and the Wisconsin Rabbit Breeders' page on FaceBook.
- Plan your facilities.  
Plan for a wire-bottomed cage (1" x 1/2" wire); the floor space can be as small as 1.5 ft. for small breeds, and as large as 5 ft. of floor space for the large breeds.

If the hutch is kept outside, keep it free from the weather and cold drafts.

- What breed of rabbit best suits your goals and your experience level?  
As a reputable breeder. There are many varieties of rabbits, and they all have different personalities and activity levels.

Be cautious of swap meets. Some people sell crossbreeds as purebreds. The only way to know your rabbit is purebred is to get a pedigree with your rabbit. Most reputable breeders have pedigrees on all their rabbits.

### PREPARING FOR RABBITS

- Rabbit cage floor should ideally have 1" x 1/2" wire. Rabbit should have access to a board, but make sure that it stays clean.
- Cage does not need a hutch if the cage is kept inside, but if outside it should have one. Keep rabbits out of the sun as it will fade their coats.

*Many people think rabbits are rodents. They are actually lagomorphs, which are mammals that include rabbits, hares, and pikas (see below).*





## NUTRITION and RABBIT HEALTH

- Feed your rabbit a complete rabbit feed (ex: Purina, Pen Pals, Manna Pro, etc.)

Rabbits may also have a small amount of timothy/alfalfa hay, but no fresh greens. A mineral spool is optional, but if they are on a complete feed it's not necessary. If they want treats, try cheerios or other whole grain cereal, bananas, and/or carrots, but in small amounts.

- Rabbits need fresh water daily.

### Disease Prevention

Biosecurity is a set of practices designed to reduce the risk of spreading disease from sick rabbits to healthy ones. We recommend adding these practices to your routine:

- Always quarantine new rabbits for at least two weeks.
- Clean water dishes frequently, and provide clean fresh water daily.
- Make sure that there is good air ventilation.
- Use a complete feed to keep the animals healthy.
- Keep cages cleaned; disinfect them at least once per year (more if disease is present).
- If attending shows, keep space between your rabbits and others. Use cardboard to separate rabbits from others if needed, no nose to nose contact.
- Quarantine any rabbits showing signs of illness.



## *Enrolling in 4-H and Signing up for the Oconto County Fair -- - It's Two Different Things!*

When you enroll in 4-H at **4HOnline.com**, you are signing up to be a part of Oconto County 4-H. As part of the enrollment process, most youth choose one or more 4-H PROJECTS. You can do that right on 4-H online, and you can go back and do it now if you didn't before.

If you want to put an EXHIBIT in at the Oconto County Fair, you must be signed up in that corresponding 4-H project (through **4Honline.com**). This project signup must be completed by **APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**.

We share our list of 4-H youth who have signed up for projects with the Oconto County Fair. The Fair is a separate entity and has its own guidelines for exhibitors.

Each youth who is signed up in a PROJECT through 4-H, will receive a FAIR ENTRY FORM. Those Fair Entry Forms will be delivered by a Fair representative to club advisors at the 4-H Leaders Association Meeting in May.

To sign up to take an EXHIBIT to the fair, you must fill out the Fair Entry Form, using the Oconto County Fair premium book. The Fair Entry Forms are due to Stacie Pienta by the fourth Monday in June.

## *If you are planning on showing your rabbits at the Oconto County Fair:*

- April 30<sup>th</sup>: Be sure you are signed up in the Rabbit project through 4-H Online.
- Make plans to attend one of the many Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) workshops in the county. This is required of all exhibitors to be eligible to sell at the Sale of Champions.
- July: Plan on attending the summer Rabbit Showmanship Clinic.
- July: Fair Entries due. You will get them from your Club Advisor. Look over the Premium Book for the Fair carefully. Ask your project leader or Club Advisor for help to make sure you are entering in the correct category.
- August: Watch the Friday Notes for the announcement about Cage Counts for the Fair.
- August: Get your show box and your white showmanship jacket ready for the Rabbit Show.
- Check the Fair Premium Book to find out the date and time of Rabbit Check-in Day at the Fair.

→ Youth who are selected to sell their animals in the Sale of Champions at the Oconto County Fair must have 3 documented Educational Points, one of which must be MAQA training, and one must be species specific. There are plenty of opportunities to get those points at the 4-H project days (either as a participant or as a youth leader), summer workshops, and other events throughout the county and state.